



The Bee Hive



Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand
Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Incorporated

Winter 2024

Volume 31, Number 1



Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. "Butch" Morgan, Jr. #298

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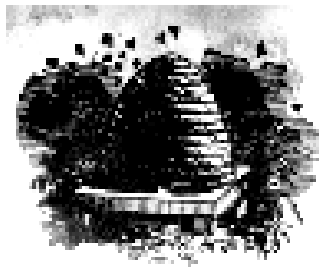
Cover Photo by W. Grand Photographer
WPM William E. Moore, Jr. #92

Here is the QR code for the 2023 souvenir journal from last year's joint charity ball.





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Then Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67, WPM Carroll Burton #298 at 99 years old, RWDGM Beverly W. Morgan #298 and WDDGM Charles –EJ– James in attendance at the 147th Grand Lodge Session.

The Bee Hive

Vol. 31 No. 1

THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH WE STAND

1. Forever Loyal to our God.
2. Forever Devoted to our Grand Lodge.
3. Giving Due Respect to our Fellow Man.
4. Living Upright in our Community.
5. The Bee Hive Shall Be Non-Partisan and Non-Sectarian.

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Mission Statement

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. is a fraternal organization dedicated to the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Our organization takes good men and develops them to be better men.

We dispense charity, promote family values and are endeavoring to significantly aid in the uplifting of humanity.

The Bee Hive, Vol. 31 Number 1, February 2024. There is no charge for pictures. Please send all articles, ads, and pictures to the Editor at e-mail at mccoygitlo@verizon.net. The Editor reserves the right to edit pictures, news items, and ads for publication. Please submit only expendable pictures. Deadline for news items for the Winter Issue is January 30th and July 30th for the Summer issue.

If you are not receiving the Bee Hive, contact the Secretary of YOUR LODGE. You can also download and copy your Bee Hive Magazine on-line from our Grand Lodge website at www.mwphglva.org.

The Bee Hive is the official publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free & Accepted Masons, Inc. Mailing address: P.O. Box 14646, Richmond, Virginia 23221-4646 or call at (804) 359-1111 or fax (804) 359-8123.



Beverly W. "Butch" Morgan, Jr.

Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298

The 82nd Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA F & AM, Inc.

First, giving honor and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, became a man, die on the cross on Calvary Hill and rose on the third day in fulfillment of the scripture that we all will have the right to the tree of life. I pray, God will continue to Bless this organization as we journey into this new Administration. Keeping with Masonic traditions; before entering upon any great or important undertaking we should always invoke the aid of deity. Worshipful Grand Chaplin Reverend Leroy Evans #7 takes us to the throne of grace.

To Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, George T. Cutler, Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, Edward Latimore, III, Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, Antonio Pride, Grand Lodge Officers present and past, Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Past Masters, and Brethren.

It is with such a great honor and humbleness to stand before you as your **82nd Most Worshipful Grand Master.**

Brethren, thanks to your tireless work, long hours and your willingness to put service above self. Our Grand Lodge will continue to develop and improve our talents and skills

of Masonic life. Together, we have made significant progress.

While our work is not finished, deep challenges remain. The strength of our organization rests within the brethren. Your capabilities and dedication is what made this Grand Lodge of the Jurisdiction of Virginia strong and unified to ensure that Friendship and Brotherly love prevail. As we look to the future, we must build on the innovations, technologies and education that we put to work serving this jurisdiction making our Grand Lodge more efficient, resilient and effective. Together, we will lead by example and show the Prince Hall family and the public, a way forward—not only by WHAT we do, but by HOW we do it.

Strategic Planning takes a conscious effort, excellent resource management, and focus on follow-through. Strategic Planning requires focus on what is truly important to the mission and identifies long-term priorities. We must continue making progress with our Five-Year Strategic Plan to become a more viable and a productive Grand Lodge. This is easily accomplished when you believe in what you are doing and enjoying every minute of it. We must continue to understand that PROGRESS is a product; a very important product of the MWPHGL of VA. Progress, effectively brings about changes to achieve significant and sustained improvements in the organization and Masonic performance.

All MASTER MASONS must demonstrate a commitment to the accomplishments of the MWPHGL of VA and realize and accept always, you are an ambassador for this ancient and honored institution.

It is **COMMITMENTS!** It is an unrelenting pursuit of our goals that will enable us to achieve GREATNESS. **Ordinary** is not an option. Everyone wants it, but are you willing to work for it?

I give thanks to my Lodge, (Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298) my District (31st Masonic District) and the entire MWPHGL of Virginia for this extraordinary moment. This moment would not have been possible if it had not been for MWPGM William F. Milton. Many years ago, he placed his complete Trust, Confidence, Faith and his impeccable reputation on the line for this monumental moment. I Am sorry he is not physically present to share in this epic moment. But in spirit, I am sure he is looking down on this Grand Lodge with that big Bill Milton's smile, saying "Don't let me down Boss, Semper Fi." Thank you MWPGM Milton.

My Theme: **—A Commitment to Leadership, Fellowship, Scholarship—**

The Song: for this Administration is **—Amen—**

The Colors: are **"Black, White and Red"**

Finally, Brethren, Thanking you in advance for your services and sacrifices, and those of your families. Your talents could have taken you many places, but you chose to serve Prince Hall Masonry. I am forever grateful, and with your continued dedication and leadership, I have never been more optimistic for the future of the MWPHGL of Virginia, as I am today!





From the Editor

WPM L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33

When the international award winning entertainer Beyonce appears on public stages, her fashions express the highest degree of prominence. Also, when Brothers Clarence M. Roney, Sr. #65 and Garland



M. Jones #65 unveil their antique automobiles, their public appearance is off the chain. And when our Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 presences himself in his Most Worshipful Grand Master dress, he is a Grand showstopper. Any public appearance is premium to anyone or organization,



especially when attention to detail is required, as a Master Mason.

As brothers of an ancient and honorable institution, we engage in several public events, during the course of any year. Our Founder’s Day Celebration, St. John the Baptist Day, St. John the Evangelist Day, Divine Sundays, as well as Masonic Funerals. We recognize how imperative our dress appearance reflects a dignity becoming the high moral character of our venerable institution.

During these most public ceremonials of our fraternity, Brothers are diligent, prudent, temperate and discreet in our duties and dress. In our dark suits, dark ties and white shirts, along with white gloves and the badge of a Mason, a white apron. This embolism of innocence is the first gift the lodge be stoves on any brother, and it is the last gift he receives that is deposited during his interment. (Ref. –The Lambskin Apron”, SHORT TALK BULLETIN - Vol.V November, 1927 No.11)

Our RW Grand Lecturer of the East, Jose R. Ortiz, and RW Grand Lecturer of the West, Larry T. Johnson #298 continue to encourage excellence in answering the challenging issues at our Schools of Instruction to include our dress codes. As proud men of Prince Hall Masonry, we follow this discipline which we are taught in order that we not only become better men, but that we find other good men and make them better men.

It is without dough, we are the REAL –Men in Black”.

We continue Our On-going Series of
Working for Perfection



As a former Bee Hive staffer of 10 years, WPM **Charles Woodie, Jr.** (76) was raised in Richmond Lodge #65 in 1985. WPM Garland Jones spoke to him about the benefits of this ancient and honorable institution and he joined. After working 32 years at Phillip Morris, he retired in 1998. He continues to restore his antique Carmero and works part-time at his pleasure and supports his lodge and Grand Lodge.

WDDGM **Erskine Dawson** (62) of Blooming Light Lodge #132 was raised in 1994 in #132. Achieving the status of Worshipful Master he was appointed WDDGM by Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Wilson in 2021. Brother Dawson has worked at U-Haul for over 17 years and has 26 years in the Navy as Sr. Chief. He enjoys riding his Haley-Davidson Roadglide as he contributes to the MWPGL of VA.



WPM **Curtis M. Barbour** (78) of Eastern Star Lodge #13 was raised in the lodge in 1990. A friend in the District of Columbia directed him to join the Masons in Eastern Star Lodge #13. As a retired law enforcement officer and retired from the Air Force after 23 years in 1985, he is now the lodge’s secretary. While playing cards and assembling puzzles occupy his past-times, he enjoys supporting the lodge.



147th Grand Lodge Session

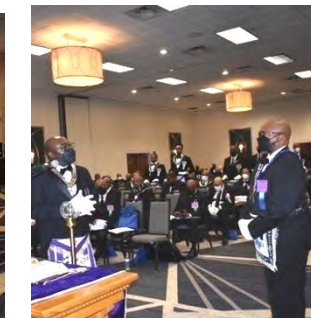
Richmond – After Committee on Work member WPM Jermaine Jones #67 gave orders to W. Grand Tiler James Tabron, Jr. #93 to secure the session’s entrance before starting the session, over 500 delegates were seated. RW Grand Lectures Jose R. Ortiz #34 and Larry T. Johnson #298 found the opportunity to give everyone instructions on receiving Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 and the other Grand Lodge Officers.



The W. District Deputy Grand Masters were first received with WDDGM Lynwood Jones #27 introducing them. Following them were the Grand Lodge Appointed Officers who were introduced by WGSS Robert Garris #80, the RW Grand Directors who were introduced by RWGD Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81, the MWPGM’s who were introduced by MWPGM Billie Thompson #, the RW Grand Line Elected Officers who were introduced by George T. Cutler, Jr. #80 and RW Deputy Grand Master Beverly –Butch” Morgan #298.



Under the escort of the King Baldwin Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia (PHA), MWGM Wilson was properly received into the 147th Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. The Grand Master then had the Proclamation for the session read by RW Sr. Grand Deacon Antonio R. Pride #43. While waiting for the Credential Report, the Grand Master spoke on COVID updates and mask wearing. The Partial Credential Report of lodges #146, #1, #89, #20 and #33 was read by WPM Gregory Goode #43.



The Grand Master then recognized 41 first-time attendees who stood and Brother Jerrod Davenport #161 spoke on their behalf. Welcoming them were RW Jr. Grand Deacon Alton L. Miles #196 and RW Jr. Grand Warden Edward E. Lattimore, III #13.

Grand Master



RWDGM Morgan then stepped to the podium to introduce Grand Master Wilson who would give his Annual Address to the body. Giving praise to God first, the Grand Master asked Grand Chaplain Evans to pray for a blessed session at the altar. Grand Master Wilson focused on issues on the passing of 255 Brothers, the War in Ukraine, mass shootings in the US, importance of voting, praised the successful SOI's, recognized the Golf Tournament, highlighted the Mid-Atlantic & Grand Masters Conferences, giving out over \$43,000 in scholarships, the KOP, PH Family Day, the Car Raffle, the Bee Hive, the Kilmarnock Project, Fraternal Relations, the OES, the Charity Ball, the Veteran Programs, his Official Acts and his Recommendations.

Grand Master



The Grand Master also recognized disasters in America and asked for a special collection for the Maui, Hawaii and New Jersey Grand Lodges. Over \$1,775.00 was collected which was rounded off to \$2,000.00 and will be equally divided and sent to those Grand Lodges.



Next on the agenda were Grand Lodge reports. RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314 gave the Grand Secretary's report and RW Grand Treasurer Rendell R. Briggs #43 followed with the Grand Treasury's report. These were followed by the Grand Director's report read by RWGD Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81, the Budget report read by WAGT Richard C. Dotson #107, the Grand Lecturers reports of RWGL Jose R. Ortiz #34 & Larry T. Johnson #298 and the Kilmarnock Project report presented by RWGD Earnest L. Prather #293.



MWGM Wilson then proceeded to pass the gavel to Sr. Past Grand Master Billie Thompson #46 who conducted nominations for elections. While the Grand Master nominated RWDGM Morgan as Grand Master, RWDGM Morgan nominated RWSGW Cutler as DGM. MWPGM Lionel Spruill #189 moved that all other line officers including the GT and the GS move up which was properly seconded and motion for adoption prevailed.



Nominations for RWJGD included Carl Albritten #298, Hozsa Bagley #17, Curtis James #67, Lynwood Jones #27, Terry Parker #327 and Roger Redd #109. While no one contested the Grand Lecturer of the West, nominations for Grand Lecturer of the East included Jose R. Ortiz #34 and Morris Hicks #6. After nominations for the two Grand Director positions only included Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81 and Larry D. Christian #253, no election was necessary.



Following the Credential Committee final report of 125 lodges (times 3), 10 Grand Lodge line officers, 11 Grand Directors, 9 MWPGM's, 1 DDGM and 1 WPM votes, total votes was 407. While the Grand Lecturer vote was Jose R. Ortiz received 330 and Morris Hicks # 70, a run-off for RWJGD revealed Curtis James with 203 verses Hozsa Bagley with 191 votes.



After the results of the election were given, Grand Master Wilson continued receiving reports. The reports continued with the Constitution report read by MWPGM Herman Eggleston #146, Jurisprudence report read by MWPGM Billie Thompson #46, the Committee on Foreign Correspondence read by MWPGM Paige Cherry #3, the Historian report read by MacArthur Myers #1, the Publishing Board report read by L. J. McCoy #33, the Charity report read by Michael Wilson #2, Committee on Work read by Lawrence Harper #293, Grand Master's Address report read by Curtis Gunn #3, the Kidney Walk report read by Melvin Simmons #139, the Registration report read by John Roster #280, the KOP report read by Carl Albritton #298 and the Education report read by Willie Wright #2.



MWGM Wilson then took the opportunity to receive our visiting Sister Jurisdictions. Representing Maryland's MWGM Noel C. Osborne, Sr. was Dwayne E. Wright; MWGM Donald E. Strehle of the Grand Lodge of Virginia AF &AM; MWGM Kevin Almore of West Virginia; and Arthur Corlitt of the District of Columbia.



Also in attendance were Virginia State Council of the Assemblies Order of the Golden Circle, King Cyrus Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons, Gilgal Grand Court Heroines of Jericho, King Baldwin Grand Commandrey Knights Templar and the Most Royal Grand Court of Cyrene.



The Grand Master also received State Director of the KOP Carl Albritten #298 and Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline T. Sutton, Grand Worthy Patron Albert Ruffin and 155 Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star.



As the closing ceremonies began with the installation of new line officers, MWPGM Billie L. Thompson #46 conducted the procedures. Prayer by the W. Grand Chaplain blessed the proceeding as MWPGM Wilson was installed which was followed by the incoming Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan #298. Following his installation were RW Deputy Grand Master George T. Cutler, Jr. #80, RW Sr. Grand Warden Edward E. Lattimore, III #13, RW Jr. Grand Warden Antonio R. Pride #43, RW Grand Treasurer Rendell R. Briggs #43, RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314, RW Sr. Grand Deacon Alton L. Miles #196, RW Jr. Grand Deacon Curtis James, Sr. #67, RW Grand Lecture Jose R. Ortiz #34, RW Grand Lecturer Larry T. Johnson #298, RW Grand Director Larry D. Christian #253 and RW Grand Director Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81 were formally installed.

Our newly installed Most Worthy Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan stated in his address that his theme song would be —Amen” and his colors are black/white/red. After several appointments, he gave us his theme for his administration —**A Commitment to Leadership, Fellowship and Scholarship**”.



147th Session Prince Hall Day and Lodge of Sorrow



Richmond – Opening the program with a procession to lead in Most Worshipful Grand Master Grand Master, RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298 presided as Master of Ceremonies. The program which included scripture by W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Clarence Williams #247, invocation by W. Grand Chaplain Leroy D. Evans, Jr. #7, a welcome by WDDGM Linwood E. Jones #27 and a response by RW Sr. Grand Warden George C. Cutler, Jr. #80 was well attended. The purpose of Prince Hall Day was given by WPM Michael Calloway #65. He reminded us that in 1775, Prince Hall and 14 other men of color were initiated into Freemasonry. These men later organized into African Lodge #1 in Boston Massachusetts in 1775. But since the British Lodge that raised them only allowed them to meet and bury their dead, Prince Hall applied for a charter from the Grand Lodge of England in order that they would have the full rights as Freemasons. They were then chartered in 1784 by the Grand Lodge of England as African Lodge #459.



RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34 then introduced Committee on Work members WPM Jermaine J. Jones #67 as Worshipful Master, WPM Travis Edmonds #7 and WPM Phillip Simmons #293 who performed the positions of the service of the Lodge of Sorrow. As WPM Alfred Simmons #124 lit three symbolic candles for our deceased, he then extinguished them after the selected chosen names were read.

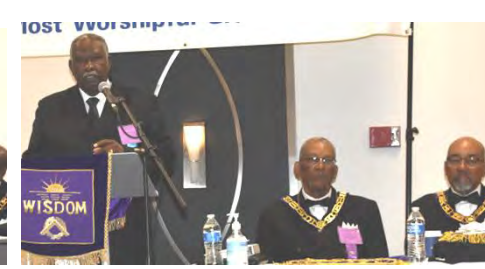
The speaker for the evening was the Worshipful Grand Chaplain who used John 11:40 as his scripture and delivered a message on, –It's not what you think, it's what God has ordained.

Finally, RW Deputy Grand Master Beverly –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 introduced MWGM Wilson. The Grand

Master then took the opportunity to thank Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline Sutton, Grand Worthy Patron Albert Ruffin the OES sisters the Committee on Work for their presence and invited them to attend the morning devotions each day.



147th Session Morning Devotions



Richmond – Invoking the aid of deity has been the foundation of our success in our Brotherhood, especially at our Grand Lodge Sessions. On September 14, 2023, Worshipful Grand Chaplain Leroy D. Evans, Jr. #7 delivered the first day services from Psalms 94:17. He reminded us although some people may smile in your face, but often gang up on us and stab you in the back.

On September 15th, our WGC Evans placed the message in the hands of Asst. WGC Arthur R. George #3. Brother George used Matthew chapter 5 to build his message of –What good is salt, if its saltiness is lost??"

As WGC Evans led the last day of devotions, he had Rev. John Cherry of Virginia Beach to bless us. Rev. Cherry used scriptures from I Kings 20:1 where he instilled in us that although the enemy wants to take away our beliefs, we, as Masons, will still continue the fight.

Did You Know, W. Asst. DDGM Jerome Brisco #167 who attended and graduated from Winston Salem University in the 1981-85 Season played basketball for Coach –B House”. He even made the last cut with the 1985 Chicago Bulls where in 1985 Michael Jordan was drafted.

147th Grand Lodge Annual Banquet



Richmond – Warning us first that he was no comedian, our Master of Ceremonies RW Jr. Grand Warden Alton L. Miles #196 assured us there would be no jokes from him.

While we received an invocation from W. Grand Chaplain Rev. Leroy D. Evans, Jr. #7, Grand Chapter Secretary Synthia Martin recognized the Grand Chapter Officers and RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314 introduced the Grand Lodge Officers. Chesterfield Supervisor Mark Miller then expressed greetings from the county with RW Jr. Grand Warden Edward E. Lattimore, III #13 responded.



After dinner, RW Deputy Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 formally introduced Most Worthy Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67. The Grand Master allowed MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46 to present two \$500.00 scholarships from the past Grand Master to Ms Lalyah Fortune and Mr. Jamison Woodruff. Special presentations by the 1st Masonic District, the 31st Masonic District, the AYCH and the Virginia Priority were given to Grand Master Wilson. MWGM Wilson then expressed his thanks for the support he had received from the jurisdiction, but wanted to award brothers and districts that showed outstanding accomplishments. He then presented recognitions for:



Secretary of the Year Large Lodge **James N. Clinton #196**
 Secretary of the Year Small Lodge, **Reuben T. Rock #125**
 Treasurer of the Year Large Lodge, **James Conway, Jr. #1**
 Treasurer of the Year Small Lodge, **Willie Seward, Sr. #108**
 Jewel Contest 1st Place, **Mt. Nebo Lodge #43**
 Jewel Contest 2nd Place, **King David Lodge #28**



Jewel Contest 3rd Place, **Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298**
 Jewel Contest 3rd Place, **Jefferson Lodge #20**
 Jewel Contest 4th Place, **Murdock Lodge #163**
 Worshipful Master of the Year Small District, **Frederick Q. McDowney #314**
 Worshipful Master of the Year Small District, **Omento Daris #186**
 Worshipful Master of the Year Large District, **Rashad McFarland #196**
 Worshipful Master of the Year Large District, **Corey Mosley #307**



147th Grand Lodge Annual Banquet (continued)



Past Master of the Year Small District, **Michael N. Christian #253**
 Past Master of the Year Large District, **Curtis B. James, Sr. #67**
 Master Mason of the Year Small District, **Warren Horsley #24**
 Master Mason of the Year Large District **Stephon Craddock, Sr. #67**



District of the Year Small District, **29th Masonic District**
 District of the Year Large District, **31st District**
 District Deputy Grand Master of the Year Small District, **Dwayne Parker #314 & Asst. DDGM James Manning, III #61**



District Deputy Grand Master of the Year Small District, **Billie C. Peters #92 & Asst. DDGM Robert E. Braswell, Jr. #139**
 District Deputy Grand Master of the Year Large District, **Charles "CJ" James #11 & Asst. DDGM Marques Pitre #298**
 District Deputy Grand Master of the Year Large District, **Lynwood E. Jones #27 & Asst. DDGM's Gregory Darrisaw #23, Robert McDonald #233, Morris Hicks #6 & Wayne Whittle #264**
 Special Presentation Award, **Clarence Jackson #314**
 Grand Master's Cup, RW Grand Secretary, **Stevie R. Gray #314**

MWGM Wilson then blessed office secretary Ms. Yvonne White with a love token and his wife with a bouquet of flowers.



The 2023 Fall Grand Lodge Golf Tournament



Williamsburg – As Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 began his play on the KISKIACK Golf Course in a light rain, he felt the presence of Asst. Grand Photographer Ricker McKnight #28 and Bee Hive Editor L. J. McCoy #33 was his omen to a winning team. The Golf Tournament proceeds fund 2nd, 3rd and 4th year college students in receiving monetary funds for their graduation degrees.



The Fall 2023 Grand Lodge Golf Tournament was held Saturday October 14th in Williamsburg. Yet, after playing nine holes in challenging weather conditions, the KISKIACK Golf Course management and Grand Lodge Golf

Chair MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253 elected to suspend further play. After consideration of the teams involved, awards were placed on the following teams;



- 1st Place - **Devery Travers, Donnell Mason, Harry Nash & Skeeter Brooks**
- 2nd place - **Fred Florence, Donald Graves, A. J. Starks & George Goldsbrough**
- 3rd Place - **Wilbert Hopkins, Curtis Gunn, Herb Butler & James Forrest**
- Longest Drive #1 - **M. Forrest ; #16 - M. Christian**
- Closest / Pin #5 - **D. Travers**



Raffle Winners Included

42” TV – **Dr. Melvin Johnson**

Note Book - **Fred Forrest**

\$50.00 Gas Cards - **Doc Johnson & Michael Forrest**

\$25.00 Gas Cards - **Ernest Baker & A. J. Strake**

\$25.00 Home Depot Card - **C. Kenny Sr.**

In order to compensate for the weather suspension, the KISKIACK Golf Course management gave everyone who participated a Ram Check for 18 holes, cart included which expires 5/31/24.

Finally, MWGM Beverly —Butch” Morgan thanked everyone for their participation and invited everyone to prepare for the June 22, 2024 Golf Tournament.





Right Worshipful Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray of King George Lodge #314



Recognizing the scholastic and athletic achievements of one of his prime students, the late high school Principal WPM Olie O. Smith #314 introduced the young Stevie R. Gray to Masonry. As a product of Kinsale, Virginia of Westmoreland County which is the birth place of our first president George Washington, our present Right Worshipful Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314 began his challenging life into the ancient and honorable institution.

His interest in sports extended from high school basketball at Washington and Lee to Mitchell Junior College basketball where he was proud to have participated in winning the regional conference in 1974.

Attending Statesville Community College in North Carolina, he later enrolled at Virginia State University as a business administration student. He then left the college to pursue a career in the US Army in 1977 for a three year term after reaching the status of staff sergeant. Then joining the Air Force reserve from 1981 to 2010 and left as a Chief Master Sergeant. Continuing with the federal government, he then retired from the Government Office of Printing. Finally, as a Human Resource Personal at the Small Business Administration, he took the opportunity to retire in 2015 as a GS-14.



Raised in King George Lodge #314 in 1988, he also grew in Freemasonry wisdom and continued to be involved in his lodge and the Grand Lodge. Assisting RW Grand Secretary Emeritus Isaac S. Hughes, Jr. #314 for several years at the Grand Lodge level, he decided to relieve Ike and was elected to the position of RW Grand Secretary at the 2016 Grand Lodge Session.

Our Grand Secretary maintains the office of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. and the position of Right Worshipful Grand Secretary in high esteem. Believing the greatest assets of this Grand Lodge rests not in its bank accounts nor in our real estate, but in the expertise and leadership of our Worshipful Past Masters of each lodge. RWGS Stevie R. Gray supports these lodges and their senior leaders who can guide us with a dignity becoming the high moral character of our venerable institution, now and into the future.



Our Grand Lodge Family Day Cook-Out

Kilmarnock – They had so much fun do we have to write about it? See what you missed.



The MWPHGL of VA visits the 2023 Grand Lodge Session of DC

By WG Historian McArthur Myers #1



Washington DC – On Wednesday December 13, 2023, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. shared a moment with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia, Inc. The DC Most Worshipful Grand Master Anthony B. Corbitt welcomed all Brothers to their session at 1000 U St. in the Nation’s Capital.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 was proud to be supported by over 80 Brothers from the Virginia Jurisdiction. Also joining him were Past Grand Masters Richard Townes #235 and Roger C. Brown #327.

In fellowship with the session were 12 other Prince Hall Grand Lodges that shared and related information about their jurisdictions.

MWGM Morgan and the Mighty 31st visits the MWPHGL of Maryland Annual Session

By WPM Steven E. Goodson #293



Ocean City, MD - It was a great day on December 2, 2023, as our MWGM, the Honorable Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. and many of the Grand Lodge Officers and 31st Masonic District Brothers visited the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland at their 175th Annual Grand Lodge Communication in Ocean City, MD.

Meeting at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, the Mighty 31st Masonic District was in full support of our MWGM. As more than a dozen Brothers made the 3-hour trip, our Virginia delegation arrived early on Saturday morning to be a part of the event and be in place to be received at 10 am. Great Job for the Mighty 31st Masonic District.



School of Instruction in Hampton

Hampton – On November 4, 2023 at the facilities of Eastern Star Lodge #13, RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34 and RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298 held the first School of Instructions for the 2023-2024 Season. Opening the school were WPM Antaum Johnson #13 as Worshipful Master, WPM Valentino Hopkins #229 as Sr. Warden and WPM Calvin Wilds #13 as Jr. Warden. After Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 was received, he recognized six first time attendees where Brother Michael Marshall #268 spoke on their behalf. The Grand Lecturers then responded to numerous questions and comments from the brothers,



especially on burial procedures. Brothers who required more information on the subjects included Jimmie Brown #54, Lamont Dart #124, Billy Johnson #124, Harold Brown #124, Thomas Jenkins #66, Keith Toliver #18, Jerome Brisco #167, Lewis Thompson #256, Michael Lewis #2, Tony Hinton #13, MWPGM Donald S. Wilson #67, Morris Hicks #6, Dwayne Parker #314 and Eugene Coleman #229.

MWGM Morgan asked Grand Director Earnest L. Prather #293 to review the computer program –Grand View”, Health Chair Dr. Johnson explain Colorectal Cancer, RWSGD Alton L. Miles #196 explain the GL Car Raffle, Grand Director Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81 explained both Veteran’s & Family Days and RWJGW Antonio R. Pride #43 explain the Greek event.

Following the roll call of lodges, MWGM Morgan presented Eastern Star Lodge #13 the award for the most members present and Silver Leaf Lodge #177 with the highest percentage of members present.

Finally, the Grand Master spoke on the two methods Masons are made (raising & making them on site) and how his District Deputy Grand Masters are in place to support every lodge in their district for any of their needs.



School in West Central Virginia



Victoria – On a clear and pleasant Saturday on November 18, 2023, the Victoria School of Instruction was opened with WPM James Delany #131 as Worshipful Master, WPM Larry Harris #187 as Sr. Warden and James Hazelwood #187 as Jr. Warden.

Under instructions from RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34, Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W.

–Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 was received with Grand Honors. The Grand Master first asked the SOI Chaplain, Frank Woody, Sr. #170,

to give a prayer for MWPGM Billy T. Thompson, Sr. #46, MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253, WPM William H. Christian (91) #65, WPM John Royster #280

for the lost of his brother at 0400 this morning and all brothers in distress.

While four brothers stepped before altar as first time attendees, Brother Tim Ferguson #131 spoke on their behalf and posed with MWGM Morgan for photos.

RW Grand Lecturer Larry T. Johnson #298 and our Grand Lecturer from the East then

began receiving questions on various ceremonial procedures. Receiving more understanding on these issues included Brothers Darangi Harrison #30, George Reid #30, James Perkins #30, Raymond Ridley #30, Arthur Davis #136, Louis Duncan #208, Roy Johnson #235 and James Spencer #146.

Updates on various Grand Lodge committees included the Car Raffle by RW Sr. Grand Deacon Alton L. Miles #196, the Masonic/Greek Unity Day on June 15th by RW Jr. Grand Warden Antonio R. Pride #43 and Veterans Day on April 13th & Family Fun Day at Kings Dominion on August 10th by RW Grand Director Charles A. Jones, Sr. #81.

Following the roll call of lodge by RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314, the lodge with the greatest number of members was awarded to Victoria Lodge #187 (below on left) and the highest percentage of members present was awarded to West Lodge #57 (below on right).

After wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, MWGM Morgan closed in a manner only a Grand Master perform.



Tidewater School of Instruction

Photos provided by Asst. GP John N. Clinton #196

Chesapeake – Opening the third School of Instruction at New Hope Baptist Church in Chesapeake, Brothers Anthony Gould #323, Tony Artis #256 and Byron Lawrence #189 preformed in the roles of Worshipful master, Sr. Warden and Jr. Warden respectively.



While Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Elbert E. Scott, Jr. #46 led in the procession of WDDGM's and their Assistants, W. Grand Marshall Ronald E. Owens #162 formally escorted Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 into the school. MWGM Morgan then recognized 17 first time attendees where Brother Robert Broadwater #67 spoke for them. Impressed by the large number of first time attendees, the Grand Master stated they will learn and have an opportunity to ask questions.

RW Grand Lecturer of the West, Larry T. Johnson #298 then took the gravel in instructing the procedure of the passing of a brother. Responding to floor questions, RW Grand Lecturer of the East, Jose R. Ortiz #34 responded the questions from Brothers Willie Green #197, Antonio Jackson and Rashad Terpley #197.



After giving first time attendees their awards, the test for the Certificates of Merit were presented to Brothers Robert Broadwater #67, Valentine Hopkins #229, Marcus Weaver #106 and Marcus Southern #106.



Following the roll call of lodges by RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314, MWGM Morgan awarded Campbell Lodge #67 with the lodge with the most members present and Progressive Lodge #80 with the largest percentage of members present.



The First 2024 School of Instruction held at Hobson Lodge #23

By WDDGM Lynwood Jones #27, WGP William E. Moore, Jr. #92 & Asst GS WPM Dr. Gerard McShepard #6



While the formalities were completed, the Grand Lectures began their instructions for the school on burial procedures and responding to appropriate questions from the brothers.

Richmond – On a rainy Saturday January 6th, the Richmond School of Instruction was held at Hobson Lodge #23. Hosting the school for today, Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Lynwood Jones #27 welcomed Brothers WM Eugene Thompson, SW Al Tyler and JW Stephen Shaw all of King David Lodge #28 to open the session.

RW Grand Lecture of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34 and RW Grand lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298 then properly instructed the brothers to receive Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. into the session. After the first time attendees assembled around the altar, Brother Vincent Hicks #23 gave brotherly words of confident for them.



In the absence of RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314, Assistant Grand Secretary Gerard McShepard #6 administrated the roll call of lodges. Following this, it was determined that the lodge with the most members present was Richmond Lodge #65 and the highest percentage of members present was St. James Lodge #300.

Prior to closing the school, Most Worshipful Grand Master Morgan was proud to present Certificates of Merit to Brothers Mitchell King #327, Edmond Logan, Sr. #81, Alton Robertson, Jr. #112, Charles Fordham #107, Robert McDonald #233 and Aubrey H. Jones #6.



Roanoke School of Instruction

Roanoke – As temperatures lingered in the low 20's and the skies remain clear, over 75 brothers found time to assembled at High Street Baptist Church on January 20, 2024 for the second School of Instruction. RW Grand Lecturer of the West congratulated Allegany-Dunbar Lodge #109 Brothers Sherman Taylor as worshipful master, James Smith as Sr. Warder and Bernard Johnson for properly opening the school.



Escorted into the event by W. Asst. Grand Marshall Demare Gill #109, Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 started by recognizing 12 first time attendees. Brother John Brown #18 spoke for them and all of whom received certificates of attendance.



The Grand Master then had the Committee on Work to call-off for a special presentation to him by the Knights of Pythagoras. Following the presentation, the COW began their instructions which included the passing of a brother, proper dress codes and church/funeral home prodigal. In order to get a better understanding of procedures Brothers John Brown #18, Steve Fitzgerald #179, Chris Betts #295, Barry Warren #295, Tony Webb #295, Sherman Taylor #109, Myles Jackson #109, Warren Paul #292, Troy Tinsley #109, James Jordan #109 and Francis Scott #109 asked questions.

After RW Grand Director Earnest L. Prather #293 explained how the computer program Grand View worked, Grand Master reflected on the Car Raffle, Veteran Day and Family Day. He also had concerns about lodges with no by-laws, but proud to state that in 2023 there were 83 first time college students that each received \$1000 and 44 continuing college students who received \$400 each.

Finally, the Grand Master awarded Brother Aaron Britten #109 with a Certificate of Merit. He then presented Allegany-Dunbar Lodge #109 the Certificate with the most members in attendance and awarded Brandon Chapel Lodge #282 the Certificate for the highest percentage of members in attendance.



Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star Celebrates Founders' Day

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Numbers following sister names are their chapters

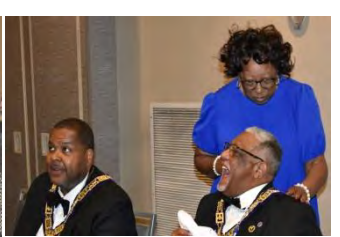


Chesapeake – On

Saturday November 11, 2023, the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia Prince Hall Affiliate celebrated its 26th Founders' Day program. The 61st Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline T. Sutton and Grand Worthy Patron Albert Ruffin enjoyed the event with over 250 sisters, brothers and guest at the Delta Hotel in Chesapeake.

While the Mistress of Ceremonies, Worthy Matron Sister Kimbe M. Watson, addressed the theme of the program –“The Wind Beneath Our Wings”, she shared the spotlight with Sisters Grand Chaplain Rev. Brenda Austin, Nadia Spruill, Grand Secretary Synthia Martin and Grand Associate Matron Gwendolyn Davis who gave the invocation, welcome, introduction of Grand Chapter Officers and the occasion, respectfully.

Grand Lecturers Demetrius Fowlkes and Sasha Johnson then lit candles in Memoriam of the Founders of the Grand Chapter. Organizing as a Grand Chapter of Eastern Stars on November 28, 1901 in the City of Richmond, the body started with five chapters and 115 members. Today, the Grand Chapter is composed of 87 chapters and over 3,700 members throughout the Commonwealth.



Following lunch, Sister Rev. Brenda Austin was instrumental in shining more –light” on the event’s subject. She fashioned the message from scripture found in Isaiah 40:31 ...“They shall mount up with wings like eagles...” As she concluded with a Desmond Tutu story about the eagle and the chicken, —“you are responsible for the decisions you make.”

Grand Worthy Matron Sutton then awarded gifts to the most senior aged Sister Edna Quinn #7, the youngest Sister Kenyatta Royster #18, most distant traveled to event Josephin Osborne #233, newest in any chapter Mia Blackwell #118 and the longest in any chapter Edna Quinn #7.

After comments from the Grand Worthy Patron and the Grand Worthy Matron, the program received comments from Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly –“Butch” Morgan, Jr. who wished the Marines and all veterans a blessed Veterans Day.

Pride of Hampton #150 OES “Crazy Hat Luncheon”

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Hampton – Sharing her observance of a younger OES sister’s inappropriate dress code who eventually took the advice of a seasoned sister, program Mistress of Ceremony PWM Ellen Stewart was very pleased that

the younger sister followed the advice.

Pride of Hampton Chapter #150 OES held their 2023 –Crazy Hat Luncheon” on Saturday September 30 which gave attendees an opportunity to witness the creative skills of the sisters, as well as the brothers in devising unique head pieces.

As the program of events unfolded, Sisters and Brothers delivered an invocation by WP Joseph Shears, introduction of Grand Chapter Officers by GDDO #3 Juneifure Vaughan and introduction of Grand Lodge Officers by DDGM Antonio Hinton. The —Crazy Hat Luncheon” was a brainstorm of Sister WM Debbie Phillips, GDDO #3 Juneifure Vaughan and the late Grand Worthy Patron Reynold O. Potts who started the program in April 2013. While the judges focused on their Sunday Best hats, they also cited the most creative hats where token prizes were awarded. WM of the chapter, Kimbe Watson, then gave gifts to all the sisters who made the event possible. Following remarks from Grand Worthy Patron Joseph Shears and Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline T. Sutton, Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –“Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298 expressed his pleasure to attend the event and support the chapter.

The 17th MD has a Summer Divine Sunday

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #285



Sutherlin – On Sunday July 31, 2023, the 17th Masonic District Prince Hall Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star Districts 20th and the 21st OES PHA celebrated the 5th Sunday Divine Worship. W. District Deputy Grand Master Walter H. Davis #295 and WADDGM Michael Hairston were supported by Danville Royal Lodge #104, Murdock Lodge #163, Olympia Lodge #179, Judah Lodge #205, Almagro Lodge #217, Shockoe Lodge #244, Brandon Lodge #282 and Golden Rule/Nehemiah Lodge #295.

The service was held at Pleasant Chapel Baptist Church in Sutherlin, Virginia where Pastor Jonathan King delivered the message.

Divine Sunday in the 1st Masonic District

By WPM Michael Wilson



Norfolk - The 1st Masonic District along with District 2 of the Order of Eastern Star PHA celebrated Divine Sunday at New Calvary Baptist Church in Norfolk Va. In attendance were 40 brothers from various lodges in the district as well as the RWDGM George T. Cutler, Jr. #80, RWJGD Curtis B. James, Sr. #67 and MWPGM Curtis Vaughan, Jr. #67.

MWGM Visits Diversity Lodge #330

By WPM Steven E. Goodson #293

Alexandria (November 29, 2023) – Our MWGM, the Honorable Beverly W. “Butch” Morgan, continued to make

visitations around the 31st Masonic District. MWGM Morgan and



several of his elected and appointed officers from the 31st District were able to visit WM Lateef Watson and the Brothers of Diversity Lodge #330, at their regular stated communication. It was indeed a great night of instruction, fellowship and laughter as MWGM Morgan addressed many of the current Grand Lodge initiatives and answered questions for the Brother on many Masonic topics. Also, in attendance was our very own WDDGM Charles James #11 and ADDGM A. Marques Pitre #298, and RWGD Earnest L. Prather #293. After the meeting, the Brothers gathered around for the traditional photo opportunity. The Brothers assembled downstairs for a repast that consisted of chicken, greens and sides. Great night of Brotherly Love.

The 12th MD Celebrates Divine Sunday in July

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Prince George – Jokingly W. Grand Chaplain Leroy D. Evans, Jr. #7 related asking for a drink of water, but received a red cup from WADDGM Hozsa Bagley #17 before his presentation in Petersburg.

The 12th Masonic District joined Union Baptist Church in Spring Grove on July 30, 2023 in celebrating the July Divine Sunday. Joining WDDGM Darrin Hill #43 and GDDO Angela Scott were over 30 brothers from the district and 25 sisters. RW Sr. Grand Deacon Antonio R. Pride #43 and RW Grand Treasurer Rendell Briggs #43 were also in attendance.

WGC Evans took the opportunity to share a message from I Corinthians 10:13 and entitled it “I’m Coming Out”. Before dismissing the service, Pastor

Evans then invited everyone to a prepared meal in their fellowship hall

Brother Youngs Inducted in Athletic Hall of Fame

By W. Grand Photographer William E. Moore, Jr. #92

Richmond - Ernesto Youngs played football for Virginia Union

University from 1975 through 1979. He was named All-CIAA in 1977, 1978 and 1979 at right tackle. Youngs was named All-American by Jet Magazine in 1978 and 1979, while receiving Honorable Mention All-American Honors by the Associated Press in 1978 and 1979. In 1979 he played in the Black College All-Star Game in New Orleans, La.

On Friday, September 22, 2023 he was inducted into Virginia Union University Athletic Hall Of Fame and was honored for his accomplishments.



Henrico Lodge #41 at National Night Out

By Brother Stanley Ray #41

Richmond

- Henrico Lodge #41 supported the 26th Masonic District's National Night Out.

Hosted at Hobson Lodge #23,

the event is designed to bring the community together with the local political representatives and the First Responders (Police and Fire Departments). It included food, vendors, children activities, music and awards given to leaders making a difference in the community - Beautiful event!"



Louisa Lodge #113 at 2023 Christmas Parade

By Lewis P. Stephens #113



Louisa – Louisa Lodge #113 participated in the county's Annual Parade. Pictured Front Row (L to R), WM Calvin Jackson, Chaplain Alvin Moore, WDDGM Douglas Gregory, WDDGME Morris Nelson, SW Allen Jennings Second Row (L to R), JW Anthony McClendon, Marshal Curtis Ellis, Back Row (L to R) Tyler James Johnson, Secretary Lewis P. Stephens

sentenced to 60 days in jail for his role in a sit-in of a segregated drugstore in the city. He then became a member of the National Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Joining forces with Rev. King, Harris accepted non-violent as the most practical method for civil rights even arrested 13 more times for civil disobedience.

Brother Harris was eventually, elected to the Hopewell City Council in 1986 and became the city's first African American Mayor on July 7, 1998. Serving 26 years in the city's politics, he retired on March 1, 2012.

The keynote speaker for the event was US Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan who reflected on his struggles in how African American woman were dismissed by our founding fathers.



In respect for our brother and his sacrifices for civil rights, Shiloh Lodge #33 made a \$5,000.00 donation to make the event and dedication a success.

Historical Monument Dedication for the late WPM Curtis Harris #33

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Hopewell – Fighting for civil rights in the Hopewell and surrounding areas, laying down in the streets of Suffolk to stop trucks with environmental waste and marching with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. throughout the south, the late WPM Curtis W. Harris, Sr. #33 was a legend in his own time. Brother Harris was honored by the City of Hopewell on December 2, 2023 with the unveiling of his statue in the city's plaza.

Dr. Harris began his civil rights work as early as 1950, when he was elected president of the Hopewell NAACP. Ten years later, he was arrested and

Prince Hall Masons Honor their Contributors

By L. J. McCoy #33



Williamsburg – Supporting Masonic events of our veterans to helping the homeless, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Masons Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. in the Williamsburg and surrounding areas celebrated their supportive vendors. Brother Alfred Simmons #124 invited Mr. Dan Roseman of Sysco Company, Mr. Dan Spooner of PFG and Ms. Missy Mills of Riverside Paper Supply to lunch and an award presentation at the **“Food for Thought Restaurant”** in the city.

The vendors shared an opened relationship with the Masons who

thought it as a welcomed commitment of generosity to the community. Addressing the obligation the fraternity has toward faith, hope and charity, Brother Simmons recognized how important it was to partner with advocates who shared the belief that preserving our freedom through our vets was as imperative as aiding our homeless.

Joining the presentations were Sisters Opelene Davis and Ruth Allison, along with Brothers Billy Johnson #124, Harold Brown #124, Ullman Quash #124, DDGM Antonio Hinton #13 and ADDGM Jerome Brisco #167.

York Rite Family Helps Needy Family

By WGP William E. Moore, Jr. #92



Portsmouth - On Sunday September 3, 2023 the York Rite family of the Tidewater area raised \$525.00 to help a needy family in Portsmouth Va. The generous contributions helped the family's 7 month, 18 month and 4 year old children with food, school supplies and clothes. The family expressed thanks to the whole York Rite body for their support which could not include everyone that donated for this photo op.

Triangle Lodge #293 and Grace Chapter #239 Joint Thanksgiving Day Donations

By WPM Steven E. Goodson #293

Triangle – On November 18, the Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293 and Grace Chapter #239 continued their Joint Annual Thanksgiving Day Basket Donations. The lodge was proud to give back to the surrounding communities of Dumfries, Triangle, Woodbridge and Stafford, Virginia.



Hobson Lodge #23 Hosts the 26th MD Night Out



Richmond – On August 1, 2023, Hobson Lodge #23 hosted the Neighborhood Night Out with free food, drinks and music to show support for community and law enforcement.



Attending the event were Richmond Sherriff Antionette V. Irving, Police Chief Rick Edwards, Mayor Levar Stoney and local radio announcer Clover who supported the event to lower crime rates in the city.

Shiloh Lodge #33 Honor their Widows

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Colonial Heights – On Friday December 1, 2023, Shiloh Lodge #33 recognized their widows at a breakfast at the Golden Corral. Five of the lodge's 13 widows joined the Brothers at the event which was coordinated by Chair WPM Avon Miles, Sr. and Co-chair Brother Rev. J. Lee Hill, Jr.

After the breakfast and posing for photos, Brother Miles and Hill presented the widows with gift bags that included a VISA gift card.

Four Brothers receive their 50 Year Recognition

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295



Keeling - On Sunday December 17, 2023, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accept Masons recognized four Brothers from Olympia Lodge #179 who received their 50 Year Certificate and pin. Brother James Hunt Sr. was unable to attend because of health reasons. Presented at New Sandy Creek Baptist Church in Keeling, Virginia where Brother Rev. Larry Daye is the Pastor. From Left to Right: W. District Deputy Grand Master Walter H Davis, Senior Warden James Giggetts, Brother Jimmie W. Richardson, Past Master Melvin Stamps and Past Master William Wood (secretary)

The 17th MD Recognizes Divine Sunday in October

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295



Sutherlin – On Sunday July 31, 2023, the 17th Masonic District Prince Hall Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star Districts 20th and the 21st OES PHA celebrated the 5th Sunday Divine Worship. W. District Deputy Grand Master Walter H. Davis #295 and WADDGM Michael Hairston were supported by Danville Royal Lodge #104, Murdock Lodge #163, Olympia Lodge #179, Judah Lodge #205, Almagro Lodge #217, Shockoe Lodge #244, Brandon Lodge #282 and Golden Rule/Nehemiah Lodge #295.

The service was held at Pleasant Chapel Baptist Church in Sutherlin, Virginia where Pastor Jonathan King delivered the message.

The 12th Masonic District Divine Sunday

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – During an unseasonable warm morning on October 29th, the 12th Masonic District gathered at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Petersburg. While Grand District Deputy Organizer of the 16th & 18th Districts Angela Sampson-Lyons introduced the Order of the Eastern Stars, W. District Deputy Grand Master Darrin Hill #43 spoke on behalf of the Brothers.

As church Pastor Robert A. Diggs #43 acted in the role of worship leader, Martinsville native Rev. James T. Nowlin delivered the message from II Timothy 1:3 entitled —Stirring Up the Gift”.

Pastor Diggs also took the opportunity to Honor long-time church member WPM James Crocker #43.

Arlington Lodge #58 Supports local High School

By Brother Roger Baskins, Sr. #58



Arlington – On November 20, 2023, Arlington Lodge #58 gave gift cards to some needy students at Washington Liberty High School in Arlington, VA. Pictured above from L to R are WM Ronnie Hall, Britnee Stephens (school social worker), JW Roger Baskin (Dean of Students), and WPM Carlton Newton.

Honorary Memberships by Friendship Lodge #19

By W. Asst. Grand Photographer Ricky McKnight, Sr. #28



Richmond – At a regular communication of Friendship Lodge #19 on October 4, 2023, two honorary memberships were presented for outstanding dedication to the lodge. WM Tony Hart #19 and Secretary Edwin Smith #19 presented the honorary plaques to MWPGM Roger C. Brown #327 and WPM Carl Smith #233.

The 33rd MD Celebrates St. John the Evangelist

By W. Grand Photographer William E. Moore, Jr. #92



Virginia Beach - The 33rd Masonic District with the support of the Sisters from District #34 of the Order of the Eastern Stars celebrated St John on December 17, 2023. The Evangelist Day celebration was held at New Hope Baptist Church in Virginia Beach. With Guest Speaker JW Landrick Smith who used the subject of “*M of Us*” from 1 John 2: 15-19.

Murdock Lodge Gives for Christmas

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295



Danville - On Thursday December 14, 2023, Murdock Lodge #163 donated three bikes to families in Cardinal Village.

From Left to Right: Brother Harry Brooks #163, Senior Deacon Lawson Williams #163, Past Master Sean Poole #163, Worshipful Master Gregory Glass #163 and Past Master Roger Hall #163.

Golden Rule/Nehemiah Lodge #295 Celebrates 77 Years

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295



Danville - On Saturday November 11, 2023, the Brothers of Golden Rule/Nehemiah Lodge #295 celebrated and fellowshipped for 77 years as a lodge. Golden Rule was organized in 1946 and held the event at Right Touch Christian Church in Danville under Pastor Tommy Crews.

From Left to Right: Past Master Stanley Fitzgerald, Brother Tony Wedd, Past Master Bennie Logan, Junior Warden Kelvin Venablie, W. District Deputy Grand Master Walter H Davis #295, Junior Deacon David Gunter, Worshipful Master Barry Warren, Junior Stewart Sammie McCullough, Senior Warden Christopher Betts and Past Master Rickie James. Also in the back is Senior Deacon Richard Cosby.

The 12th MD Celebrates St. John the Evangelist

by WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Battling a heavy rain storm, the Brothers of the 12th Masonic District and the Sisters of the 16th and 18th Districts of the Order of the Eastern Star assembled at the Petersburg Temple for St. John the Evangelist Day.

W. Asst. District Deputy Grand Master James Parham #290 served as worship leader on December 17th as Brothers Wendal Givens #317, Robert Truly #15, Bobby Claiborne #7 and Larry Matthew #17 preformed music, invocation, scripture and purpose respectively. While Grand District Deputy Organizer Angela Sampson Scott introduced the Eastern Stars, W. DDGM Darrin Hill #43 recognized the Grand Lodge Officers and committees.



Delivering the evening message from I Kings 6:14, W. Grand Chaplain Leroy D. Evans, Jr. #7 used the title “*I’m working on My Building*”.

In closing, RW Jr. Grand Warden Antonio R. Pride #43 stated Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298 would be pleased of the program and those who made the sacrifice to attend today’s celebration.

The 17th MD Celebrations St. John the Evangelist

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295



Keeling - On Sunday December 17, 2023, the 17th Masonic District of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star Districts 20th and 21st celebrated St. John Evangelist Day. The services were held at New Sandy Creek Baptist church Keeling Virginia. Brother Rev. Larry Daye, Pastor used title of “*I’m down in the hole, Brother Will you help me get up*”.

Mighty 31st attends Divine Sunday

By WPM Steven E. Goodson #293



Alexandria – On October 29, the Brothers of Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298 were the gracious host for the 31st Masonic District Divine Sunday Worship Service. The celebraton was held at Bethlehem Baptist Church of Alexandria, Va. The Brothers historically visits local Churches in the Northern Virginia area on the 5th Sunday of the month. This visitation was yet another day of Worship, where the Brothers of the 31st Masonic District and Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star showed up and showed out in their Masonic Black and Whites. While the Sisters wore their beautiful white gowns it was a wonderful day of worship for the Sisters and Brothers!

Triangle Lodge #293 supports the “Wreaths Across America”

By Brother Eugene J. Porter #293



Alexandria – On October 16, the Brothers of Triangle Lodge No. 293 were up early before dawn to participate in what has become a traditional event for the lodge, The Wreath Across America at Arlington National Cemetery is an event the Brothers pride themselves in supporting and this year was no different. Worshipful Master Shelly Bothwell Jr. leads the Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293, F&AM as they volunteered as the truck crew during the annual event. The event was a success, as the Brothers along with Mr. Chris

Jackson (High School Junior) passed out 3,900 Wreaths to volunteers, who placed them at the gravesite of our deceased Veterans.

Diversity Lodge #330 Veterans Day Appreciation Cookout

By JW Carroll Alexander #330

Dale City – On November 11, 2023 (Veterans Day), the brothers of Diversity Lodge #330, continued their 15-year tradition of providing a Veterans Day Cookout to show their appreciation to those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The cookout was held between the hours of 12:00-4:00 p.m. at



the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 1503 in Dale City, Virginia. During the event, the brethren of Diversity manned the grill and served over 200 plus people with some tasty food; and provided plenty of good music, games, a Bounce House and a photo booth for their guest to enjoy.

Additionally, during the event, and keeping with the lodge’s tradition, Worshipful Master Lateef Watson with the assistance of Secretary Worshipful Past Master Gordon Renfrow presented the VFW Post Commander Bernie Carter with a gift for the post, and a personal gift for the Commander. We would like to thank VFW Post 1503 for continuing to support our lodge in hosting this annual community service event; and the brothers of the 31st Masonic District and their family members who were able to come out and show their support of our annual event.

Acacia Lodge #32, Universal Lodge #1 and Esther Chapter #23 perform Joint Holiday Gift Cards and Toys Giveaway



By JW Curtis Dixon #32

Alexandria - On December 13, 2023, Brothers of Acacia Lodge #32 participated in a joint effort with Universal Lodge #1 and Esther Chapter #23 to donate Christmas toys and gift cards at the Cora Kelly Elementary School in Alexandria, Va. Acacia Lodge #32 donated five (5) \$50 gift cards to needy and deserving kids in helping to provide joyous and happy holidays, Acacia Lodge #32 strongly believes that our kids are our future and will continue to support this annual event.

Acacia Lodge #32 supports the Wreaths Across America

By SW Curtis Dixon #32



Alexandria - On December 16, 2023, members of Acacia Lodge #32 participated in the annual Wreaths Across America event at Alexandria National cemetery in Alexandria VA. Acacia Lodge #32 donated five (5) wreaths, in addition to volunteering time and effort into helping to place wreaths on every fallen Veteran burial site at the cemetery. This was a very beautiful and highly honored event for our military heroes in which, Acacia Lodge #32 will continue to participate annually.

Triangle Lodge #293
Salvation Army Red Kettle
 By SW Cedric Martin#293



Woodbridge - The Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293 continued the annual participation in support of the Salvation Army Red Kettle Event. On December 2, 2023, the Brothers of the Craft lead by WM Bothwell participated in supporting the Prince William County Salvation Army by volunteering 24 man-hours to ringing the bell for the holiday Red Kettle Campaign at the local Walmart Supercenter in Woodbridge, Va.

Lincoln Lodge #11
Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway
 By WM Michael A. Petty #11



Alexandria - The brothers of Lincoln Lodge Number #11 and the sisters of Lincoln Chapter #242 OES, met at the Andrew Adkins Homes, in Alexandria, Virginia on November 18, 2023 for our Annual Turkey Basket Giveaway.

We look forward to this yearly event. It gives us the opportunity to give back

to the community in which we serve. The weather was fine, and the participation was great. We were able to distribute 25 baskets. This is what Thanksgiving is all about - Giving.

King Tyre Lodge # 292 and Evening Star #228 support Annual "Breakfast with Santa"

By WM Eric Lawson #292



Falls Church - On Saturday, December 16, 2023, members of King Tyre Lodge #292 and Evening Star Chapter #228 worked in coordination with other local service groups which supported the annual "Breakfast with Santa" event hosted by the James Lee Community Center (JLCC) in Falls Church, Virginia.

Each year, the hard-working JLCC employees and volunteers reach out to families in the East Falls Church community, welcoming them to a delicious meal, gifts for kids of all ages and a special visit with Santa Claus! The event started receiving guests at 9 AM and breakfast was served at 10 AM.

JLCC keeps track of how many guests visit the center for each event and stated that more than 250 people were in attendance. That was the most since the pre-pandemic time. King Tyre Lodge #292 and Evening Star #228 donated more than \$1,000 worth of toys and clothing to JLCC for this event and handed out gifts to more than 100 children aged 6 months to 16 years old. King Tyre Lodge #292 is led by Worshipful Master Jacques Thomas, and Evening Star #228 is led by Worthy Matron Marion Allen.

Diversity Lodge #330
"Christmas Giving"

By JW Carroll A. Alexander #330

Dale City - The brothers of Diversity Lodge #330 collected donations amongst the brethren "near and far" to purchase and donate over \$500 dollars' worth of

toys, games and sporting good items for the local community service "Toys for Tots" collections. The event was hosted by VFW Post 1503 in Dale City, Virginia. The brethren also donated an additional \$200 dollars to purchase needed clothing for a local family that is going through hardship, due to the loss of a family member. Our continued thoughts and prayers are with the family in need.



Triangle Lodge #293
supports the Town of Dumfries Christmas Parade
 By SW Martin #293 and WM Watson #239



Dumfries - On December 9, 2023 members of Triangle Lodge #293 lead by SW Martin and accompanied by Worthy Matron Sametha Watson of Grace Chapter #239 of the Order of Eastern Stars participated in The Town of Dumfries Christmas Parade. The Brothers were joined by Dumfries Mayor Derrick Wood and Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger. As a family-friendly event for all ages, members of Triangle passed out hundreds of candy bags while playing traditional Christmas tunes through the parade route.

Gratitude, Thank You

From Bro Charles L. Bowman per MWGM Beverly W. Morgan, Jr.

After my love of God, there have been three other great loves in my life; my wife, my family and my Masonic brotherhood. Naturally; the greatest of these three was my love for my wife, Evangeline.

My beloved Van and I were divinely blessed to share over 66 years of marriage. Throughout those wonderful years of marriage, we truly achieved joy, peace and harmonious fulfillment. As a career military man, we traveled extensively and lived in many parts of the world including Okinawa, Japan and the Philippines. Following my retirement, we continued to enjoy traveling stateside. Although we frequently traveled alone, as we grew older, we began to look forward to taking an annual excursion with a small group of close friends. Such was the case this past August when our usual crew started out on a tour bus from Williamsburg, VA with the eventual destination of Canada. Naturally, there were many planned stops in several Northeastern states along the way.

When we reached Vermont, my lovely wife became too ill for us to endure the rest of the journey. Van was in and out of intensive care several days for over a week while the rest of our party continued with the tour. Even though the staff at the University of Vermont Medical Center were fantastic, we were all alone and over 800 miles from home. Devastated by my wife's condition and completely out of familiar territory, I reached out to the local Masonic brotherhood. Every faith and confidence I had placed in this brotherhood was proven. Brother Tom Bailey and his wife, Pat came to our rescue "big time. They saw to my needs and comforts as if we were life-long friends when the truth is; we had never met or even spoken prior to this unfortunate occurrence. They continued to aid us in every way possible during the entire time that we were medically forced to remain in Vermont.

Following our departure for home, this wonderful couple continued to keep in touch and frequently enquired about Van's health condition. Sadly, my beautiful bride passed away this past September 18th. Upon hearing of her demise, the Baileys again reached out with sincere expressions of compassion and sympathy.

I will never forget their kindness, generosity, and show of brotherly love to my wife and me. One may think that there is nothing unique about this display of love and kindness from one human being to another. But the story still bears telling because Tom and his wife Pat are white, while my wife and I are black. What they did for us gives me hope, that these United States can still become the melting pot which was taught to believe it is.

May God continue to bless Bro Tom and his wife Pat. They have touched my heart and my life so profoundly that I am forever grateful.



Roanoke KOP Presents Grand Master Gift

Roanoke – Under the direction of Knights of Pythagoras State Director Bernard Johnson #109 and Adult Knight Demare Gill #109, four young men came to the Roanoke School of Instruction for a special presentation to Most Worshipful Grand Master Beverly W. –Butch” Morgan, Jr. #298. Youth KOP members Tavarius Martin-Carter, Jason Taylor, Jaiden Lexine and Jaden Taylor Smith gave the Grand Master a KOP personalized polo shirt.



The Brothers of Washington Lodge #139 Thanksgiving Blessings

By Brother Rob Braswell #139

Virginia Beach - "Uplifting and supporting our community one person at a time." On November 18, 2023, WPM Donald Williams Blessed the morning with a Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Brothers of Washington Lodge #139 along with the Sisters of Princess Anne Chapter #27 assembled and prepared 25 Thanksgiving baskets each filled with 16-pound turkeys and all the fixings for 25 families to



prepare a nourishing holiday meal.

19 November 2023 the second team of Brothers and Sisters were on hand at the Lodge to do what we do best, dispense charity and provide assistance to our community. We were delighted to have RWDGM George T. Cutler, Jr., #80, RWSGD Alton L. Miles #196 and RWJGD Curtis B. James, Sr. #67 to join our annual collaboration of Washington #139 and Princess Anne #27 making a world of difference in our community.

Murdock Lodge works with local shop for Donation

By Brother Sean Poole #163

Danville - On December 2, 2023, Murdock Lodge #163 partnered with C&D's Pawn Shop and held a hugely successful fish fry. All proceeds were donated to 10 families that lost everything in a fire at North Pointe Apartment Complex in Danville, Virginia.



We continue Our On-going Series of
Working for Perfection



Brother **Sam William Mason** (76) was raised in Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 in 1991. Brother Mason was convinced by WPM James Raines that he would be good timber to support the lodge. Retiring from Allied/Honeywell after 36 and a half years, Brother Mason enjoys caring for landscaping at his home and acting as the 12th Masonic District Marshal for local and district events.

WPM **Allen Alexander Bailey** (84) was raised in 1978 in L'Overture Lodge #156 which united now with Social Lodge #6. WPM Bailey was convinced by his father-in-law, John E. Taylor, that they would make a good man better if he became a member. After 25 years in the Marine Corp, he retired from Dupont with 25 years of service there. Now celebrating 66 years of marriage (in 2023), he works in all levels of Masonry.



Brother **Frank Woodley, Sr.** (88) was raised in 1974 in what is now Obidah-Bethany #170. He first heard about Masonry from a Deacon at his church the late Benny Crayon. Retiring from Watkins Nursery in 2022, he finds more time to dedicate to his church gardens, small engine repair and Masonry.

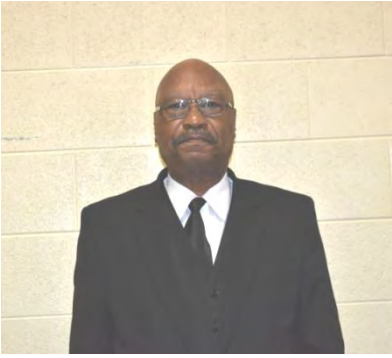


WPM **Ullman D. Quash** (74) was raised in Blooming Olive Lodge #94 in 1978. While going to Zion Baptist Church in Hampton, he spotted a vehicle with symbols which he did not understand – but asked. WPM Herbert Harris #94 explained them to him and got him a petition to join. Retiring from Phillip Morris in Hopewell after 23 years, he recalls having driven back and forward to Yorktown for the last five years. He now works with the local Food Bank, Cub Scouts and his lodge.



While planning for his trip to Africa, Portugal and Spain in April 2023, WPM **Willie L. Lee** (61) of Pocahontas Lodge #7 took time to attend the Petersburg School of Instruction. After hearing about Masonry from WPM Edward Davis #7 who attended his church, he was raised in the lodge in 2010. Joining the Army in 1978, he has worked at the Army Logistics University as a Military Instructor since 2009. In his second year as Worshipful Master, his has encouraged his Past Masters in giving lectures to bring more Light to his lodge.

"MORE" Working for Perfection



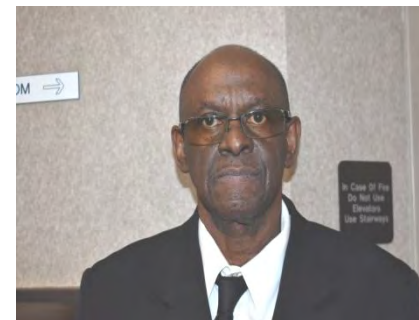
Brother **Rev. Dr. James L. Jordan, Sr.** (69) was raised in I. J. McGuffin Lodge #313 that eventually merged with Allegany-Dunbar #109. Introduced into Masonry by Brother James Lee Jordan #313 (now merged with #109), Brother Jordan was raised in 2003. Retiring from Northern & Southern Railroad, he is now pastor of his own church Divine Spirit Ministry in the Roanoke area and continues to stay active in the community.

WDDGM **Antonio Hinton, Sr.** (66) found his home at Eastern Star Lodge #13 in December 1991. After he heard his uncle the late WPM John E. Crawley #13 speak so highly of Masonry, he decided to join. Receiving his appointment as District Deputy Grand Master from MWPGM Richard Townes #235, he continues to hold that position. Although he has retired, he continues to do home renovations.



WPM **Bill Davis** (75) of Big Island Long #316 was raised in Big Island on January 25, 1979. After hearing so much about Masonry from his fellow workers at G. P. Paper Mills, he decided to join. Retiring from the mills after 42 years, he now does volunteer work in the surrounding area by providing rides to medical care for those in need.

WPM **Ralph Johnson** (72) found his Light from Long Mountain Lodge #204. While admiring his Masonic uncle, he was raised in Long Mountain in 1984. Worshipful Past Master Johnson is self-employed in his home improvement business where he specializes in plumbing, electrical and other building needs. He can be reached at 434 841-8035.



Brother **Francis Scott** (72) found a space in his busy schedule to be raised in Allegany-Dunbar Lodge #109. Brother Scott began his career as a Virginia State Trooper in 1973. In his 48 years with the department, he not only served as a trooper, but as an EOD (explosive expert), fire inspector and retired as a Sr. Special Agent in Criminal Investigation.

We Enjoyed the

September 14, 2023
7:00 PM



H GL OF VIRGINIA PR
Annual Com



Gospel Concert



FEATURING:

RAMONA RAINES | THE GOSPEL SENSATION
JOSPEH MAJORS | GODS CHOSEN
& THE JONES SINGERS

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON HOTEL
GER CENTER BLVD

OND, V

NARD "PE



SHURELL GM | STEVIE GRAY

Grand Master's Agenda of Events for 2024

JANUARY 6, School of Instruction in Richmond
20, School of Instruction in Roanoke
20, OES Conductress Workshop

FEBRUARY 3, School of Instruction in Dillwyn
17, School of Instruction in King George

MARCH 2, Car Raffle Drawing at the Grand Lodge,
2, School of Instruction in Petersburg,
11, OES School of Instruction in Farmville,
31, Divine Sunday

APRIL 13, Veteran's Day Celebration,
20, OES SOI at Hopson Lodge,

MAY 19, Grand Chapter OES Whit Sunday

JUNE 8, Founder's Day 11AM Petersburg,
22, Grand Master's Annual Golf Tournament
23, St. John the Baptist Day
30, Divine Sunday

JULY 23 – 25, Grand Chapter Session OES

AUGUST 10, Masonic Family Day at Kings Dominion

SEPTEMBER 12th – 14th, 148th Grand Lodge Session in Fredericksburg
29, Divine Sunday

High School Graduate Scholarship Applications

Available for High School Seniors for the Class of 2024 & 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Year College Students
Contact Your Lodge

If your father or grandfather is in good standing or was in good standing when he passed or if you are an active member of the Knights of Pythagoras
YOU ARE ELIGIBLE!

Deadline for submission is April 1, 2024 Follow the instructions on the application then send to:

Office of Grand Secretary MWPHGL of VA
P. O. Box 14646, Richmond, VA 23221-0646

The Annual Grand Master's Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 22, 2024 at The KISKIACK Golf Club, 8104 Club Dr., Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

\$400 per team or \$110 per player, Registration 7 AM – Shotgun Start 8 AM

Awards for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places, also Longest Drive, Closest To Pin, & Hole In One & Non-player lunch \$20.

Make checks payable to **MWPHGL of VA** and mail to PGM Larry D. Christian, 241 Reflection Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23188 or
757 566-2066, or email PGM Christian at ldchristian2@verizon.net

Contact Brothers

Leonard Hawkins 804 271-7136	John Amos 757 605-8513	Curtis Gunn 757 593-4913	Edward Lattimore III 757 236-9099	Leonard Johnson 703 856-3188	Devery Travers 703 906-7682
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Pre-Registration Deadline June 4, 2024

During the 2002 Martinsville School of Instruction, the Committee on Work poses at the altar. Remember?

Pictured from left to right & properly titled are MWPGM Donald S. Wilson, RWGD Charles A. Jones, Sr., WPM David Harrington, MWGM Beverly W. –Butch– Morgan, Jr., RWDGM George T. Cutler, Jr. and WPM Arthur Dean.



A Tribute to Our Sisters of the Order of Eastern Star

–Faith is taking that first step, even when you don't see the staircase!– MWGM Beverly W. –Butch– Morgan, Jr. at the 2023 Cabinet meeting

We encourage you to continue to furnish the **Bee Hive** with PERTINENT and RELEVANT information regarding your lodge and district activities. ALL INFORMATION for PUBLICATION and questions relative to the **Bee Hive** should be addressed to: **Editor, Bee Hive Magazine at e-mail to mccoygitlo@verizon.net.**

**The Most Worshipful
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia,
F. & A. M., Inc.
P.O. Box 14646
Richmond, VA 23221-0646**